

NEWS BREAK

Article: **Bezos' giant rocket may finally so into space NEW GLENN**

Section: **MAIN, A9**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, January 12, 2025** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will learn about current private space exploration and product development, and will deep dive into discussions ranging in topics about competition and innovation to economics and business and impacts on our society and world.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

In 2015, with **pomp** and publicity, Bezos announced plans for the rocket, which was then unnamed.

Pomp Guess:

Pomp Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. The foundational building block for Jeff Bezos' space dreams is finally ready to launch. A New Glenn rocket — built by _____, the rocket company that Bezos started nearly a quarter century ago — is sitting on a launchpad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
2. It is as tall as a ____-story building, and its voluminous nose cone can carry larger satellites and payloads than other rockets in operation today. In the predawn darkness Monday, it may head to space for the first time.
3. "This has been very long awaited," said Todd Harrison, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank in

- Washington, D.C. New Glenn could inject competition into a rocket business where one company — Elon Musk's _____— is winning big.
4. While companies and governments have welcomed SpaceX's innovations that have greatly cut the cost of sending stuff to space, they are wary of what?
 5. Blue Origin is also working on what other space projects?
 6. Bezos' other company — the behemoth online retailer _____— also has big space plans.
 7. Bezos, the second-richest person in the world, also talks grandiosely about a future where millions of people live and work in space, of immense cylindrical habitats spinning to provide artificial gravity, and of moving polluting industries into space someday to allow Earth to return to a more _____ state.
 8. _____, a competing rocket company, uses Blue Origin engines for the booster of its new Vulcan rocket, which successfully launched twice last year.
 9. The factory appeared — gargantuan boxy buildings colored with the company's signature bright blue hue — but the rocket, later named New Glenn after _____, the first American to reach Earth orbit, did not.

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?

Competition & Innovation:

- How does competition between companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin benefit the space industry and potentially humanity?
- Do you think the pursuit of space exploration by billionaires is a positive or negative development? Why?
- How do you think the potential for space tourism impacts the future of space exploration?

Technology & Engineering:

- What are some of the key technological challenges that Blue Origin had to overcome to develop New Glenn?
- How does the reusability of rockets like New Glenn impact the cost of space travel?
- What are the potential environmental impacts of rocket launches, and how can these be mitigated?

Economics & Business:

- How does the role of private companies in space exploration differ from that of government agencies like NASA?
- What are the potential economic benefits of a successful New Glenn program?
- How does the development of New Glenn contribute to job growth and technological advancement?

Science & Exploration:

- What are some of the scientific research missions that New Glenn could enable?
- How could space exploration contribute to solving challenges on Earth, such as climate change or resource scarcity?
- What are the ethical considerations surrounding the commercialization of space?

History & Society:

- How does the Space Race of the 20th century compare to the current era of private space exploration?
- What are the societal implications of a future with space stations and potentially, space colonies?
- How does the public's perception of space exploration influence its development?

Critical Thinking & Analysis:

- How do you evaluate the credibility of information sources, especially in the context of rapidly evolving technological advancements?
- How can you identify potential biases in news reporting and public statements about space exploration?
- What are the potential risks and rewards associated with investing in space exploration?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

Copyright © 2025 The Seattle Times Company